

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 13 August 1992

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First rise in full-time employment for six months

Full-time employment (seasonally adjusted) rose in July 1992, the first increase since January 1992. Part-time employment also rose, as did the participation rate. Unemployment was relatively steady.

Employment

The July 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,749,200, having risen by 58,000 since the previous month. Full-time employment rose by 35,100 to 5,891,900, with increases of 21,900 and 13,300 respectively in the number of males and females employed full time. Part-time employment rose by 22,900 to 1,857,300, with an increase of 18,400 in the number of females employed part time. Trend estimates of total employment show small increases in the last three months, although the full-time employment trend continues to fall.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for July 1992 was 959,600, compared with the June estimate of 963,400. For males, unemployment was steady at 590,900. Female unemployment fell slightly to 368,700, with a small fall in the number of females seeking full-time work. Trend estimates of total unemployed persons continue to increase, mainly due to successive rises in trend estimates of adult males looking for full-time work.

The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) was 11.0 per cent in July 1992, compared with 11.1 per cent in June. For males, the unemployment rate was steady at 11.7 per cent. For females, the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 10.1 per cent. Trend estimates of the total unemployment rate continue to increase steadily and now stand at 11.0 per cent.

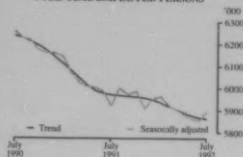
Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 63.5 per cent, an increase of 0.3 percentage points since June 1992 and the highest recorded since April 1991. For males, the participation rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 75.0 per cent. The female participation rate also rose by 0.3 percentage points to 52.4 per cent. The trend participation rate now stands at 63.1 per cent, after remaining steady at 63.0 per cent for the previous five months.

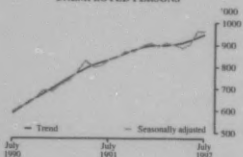
LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total		
	— '000 —				
1992					
March	5,903.1	1,787.7	7,690.8	10.5	63.0
April	5,880.0	1,792.3	7,672.3	10.4	62.7
May	5,863.7	1,799.2	7,663.0	10.6	62.7
June	5,856.8	1,834.4	7,691.1	11.1	63.2
July	5,891.9	1,857.3	7,749.2	11.0	63.5

FULL-TIME EMPLOYED PERSONS



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS



Retailers ring up a better year

Trend estimates (in current price terms) for the Australian retail sector continued to indicate moderate growth, with the monthly increase for the three months ending June 1992 averaging 0.4 per cent. The annual rate of growth is now 5.5 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted retail turnover fell by 1.8 per cent in the month of June, following a 0.3 per cent decline in the previous month.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in June 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended June 1992	12 months ended June 1992
Total food group	2,942	0.6	0.5
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	900	0.6	-0.2
Department and general stores	818	0.6	0.5
Clothing and fabrics stores	590	0.0	0.5
Other industries	2,352	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	7,602	0.4	0.5

A much clearer picture of the improvement in retail activity during 1991-92 is shown in the constant price (i.e., when the effect of price changes is removed) seasonally adjusted results. Retail turnover volume increased a fairly strong 4.9 per cent between the June quarter 1991 and June quarter 1992. This compares with a decrease of 2.2 per cent for 1990-91 and an increase of 1.3 per cent for 1989-90.

Western Australia showed the strongest growth (8.2%), followed by Queensland (7.9%). Retail turnover in New South Wales increased by 4.8 per cent whilst Victoria increased by 3.2 per cent.

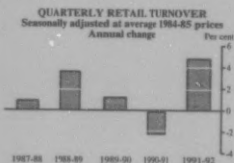
The largest industry, grocers, grew 5.6 per cent over the year to June quarter 1992 in constant price seasonally adjusted terms. The other three major industries, 'other' food (8.9%), clothing and fabrics stores (6.3%) and department stores (7.6%), each showed strong growth in turnover volume.

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia* (8501.0), or contact Mal McAuliffe on (06) 252 6132.

Average weekly earnings pause

Preliminary estimates for May 1992 show some small decreases in average weekly earnings series. There was a decrease in average weekly ordinary time earnings of 0.3 per cent for full-time adults to \$587.30, down from \$589.20 in February 1992. The decrease for males was 0.2 per cent (to \$623.70), with a 0.5 per cent decrease for females (to \$521.20).

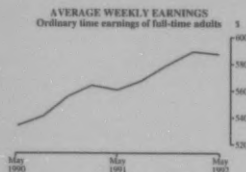
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The compositional changes that have been taking place in the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force in previous quarters, producing upward movements in the series, appear to have stabilised.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, MAY 1992

	Average weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	Feb. 92	May 91
Full-time adults					
Ordinary time	623.70	521.20	587.30	-0.3	4.7
Total	665.50	532.70	618.30	-0.2	4.5
All employees	597.00	397.80	505.10	-0.6	4.3



Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of employment. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

It should also be noted by those using average weekly earnings data for contractual adjustment or related purposes, that these estimates are preliminary. Final estimates for May 1992 are expected to be published on 27 August 1992 in *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, May 1992* (6302.0).

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Preliminary* (6301.0), or contact Errol Preston on (06) 252 6511.

Qualified people also feel effects of increased unemployment

In the year to February 1992, the number of unemployed persons aged 15 to 69 years with a post-school qualification increased by 75,300 or 28 per cent while those without post-school qualifications increased by 110,200 or 23 per cent.

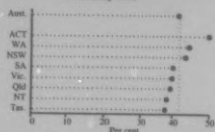
The number of employed persons with a post-school qualification increased by 78,000 or 2 per cent while those in this group without post-school qualifications recorded a decrease of 159,400 or 4 per cent.

Persons not in the labour force with post-school qualifications increased by 27,100 or 3 per cent and those without post-school qualifications showed an increase of 42,500 or 2 per cent. These are among the findings of the latest annual survey of labour force status and educational attainment.

In February 1992, 42 per cent (5,076,500) of the population aged 15 to 69 had at least one post-school qualification, an increase of 4 percentage points since 1987. This comprised 1,139,500 persons with a degree, 1,620,200 with trade qualifications, 2,272,800 with a certificate or diploma and 44,000 with some other type of post-school qualification.



PERSONS AGED 15 TO 69 WITH POST-SCHOOL
QUALIFICATIONS
February 1992



Conversely, the estimate of people without post-school qualifications (6,485,200) has dropped from 57 per cent to 53 per cent since 1987. Those persons still at school has remained constant at around 5 per cent.

Some other characteristics of the 5,076,500 persons with post-school qualifications include:

- ☐ 75 per cent were employed in February 1992;
- ☐ 69 per cent were married;
- ☐ 44 per cent had obtained their qualification since 1981;
- ☐ 29 per cent were born overseas; and
- ☐ 16 per cent had gained their qualifications overseas.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS AGED 15 TO 69
'000

	February	
	1987	1992
With post-school qualifications	4,240.8	5,076.5
Degree	816.6	1,139.5
Trade qualification	1,527.7	1,620.2
Certificate or diploma	1,854.8	2,272.8
Other	41.7	44.0
Without post-school qualifications	6,334.3	6,485.2
Still at school	525.0	593.4
All persons	11,100.1	12,155.2

For further information, order the publication *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia* (6235.0), or contact Nicole Wittmann on (06) 252 6578.

Women at work in South Australia

A new 20-page brochure provides detailed data on the participation of women in the South Australian workforce and some key related issues.

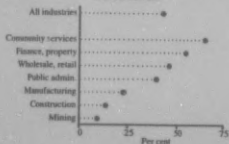
The brochure, *Womens Work*, was jointly prepared by the Women's Adviser's Office (Department of the Premier and Cabinet, SA) and the South Australian office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Among the highlights of the information collected, it shows that in February 1992:

- ☐ 44.5 per cent of all employed women were part-time workers, compared with 10.2 per cent of men; 27.5 per cent of females working part-time wanted to work more hours.
- ☐ Average weekly ordinary time earnings for adult women employed full-time were \$537.30, which was \$55.40 (or 9.3%) less than the earnings for men.
- ☐ The labour force participation rate for women born in Australia was 54.5 per cent, compared with 40.3 for women born in countries where English is not the principal language.

Continued ...

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT WITHIN SELECTED
INDUSTRIES



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
(06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 432 111

EMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SOUTH AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1992

	Women	Men
Employed full-time	149,000	330,400
Employed part-time	119,600	37,400
Preferred more hours	32,900	16,200
Actively sought more full-time work	10,500	8,700

Other points of interest from the brochure include:

- ☐ The female proportion of employment varied widely across major industry groups; from 10.2 per cent for Mining, to 23.2 per cent for Manufacturing, to 66.1 per cent for Community Services.
- ☐ In February 1991, 40.0 per cent of people who had obtained post-school qualifications were women.
- ☐ In 1989, part-time workers were much less likely than full-time workers to attend training courses. Women comprised 81.5 per cent of part-time workers.
- ☐ The balancing of work and child care responsibilities is a significant issue for women. In November 1990, formal or informal child care was used by 71.3 per cent of families with children under 12 years of age and employed mothers.

For further information, order the publication *Womens Work*, South Australia (6204.4), or contact Peter Nelson on (08) 237 7437.

All the week's releases: 5 to 11 August

General

Publications Advice, 7 August 1992 (1105.0; free — over the counter)
Publications Advice, 11 August 1992 (1105.0; free — over the counter)
Statistics Weekly, 6 August 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Economic Indicators, Vic., July 1992 (1307.2; \$6.50)

Census of Population and Housing

1991 Census Geographic Areas (2905.0; \$20.00) — *new issue*

Social statistics

Information Paper: Output from the 1990 Survey of Income and Housing
Costs and Amenities (4136.0; free) — *new issue*
Health and Welfare Establishments, Qld, 1990-91 (4302.3; \$14.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, June 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., July 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, July 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)
Average Weekly Earnings, Aust., May 1992, Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.50)

Agriculture

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Aust., 1990-91 (7503.0; \$22.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Research and Experimental Development, General Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations, Aust., 1990-91 (8109.0; \$20.00)
Retail Trade, Aust., June 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, NSW, June 1992 (8731.1; \$10.50)

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 25 August 1992

August

- 13** Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, June Quarter 1992 (5206.0; \$21.00)
Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, June Quarter 1992 (5222.0; \$12.00)
Balance of Payments, Australia, June Quarter 1992 (5302.0; \$21.00)
- 14** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, June 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)
Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure, June Quarter 1992, Preliminary (5625.0; \$10.50)
Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia, June Quarter 1992 (8125.0; \$10.50)
- 17** Export Price Index, Australia, June 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, June 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, June 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)

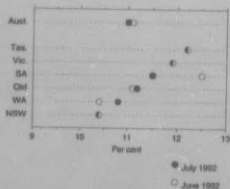
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 11 August 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (June 92) (trend estimate)	6.0	4.5	9.5	-0.6	7.9	3.5	n.a.	7.7	5.5
New motor vehicle registrations (June 92)†	40.8	0.6	16.0	3.8	11.2	24.0	19.9	28.8	20.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals (June 92)*	26.4	21.7	37.3	30.9	41.7	39.5	-4.9	80.9	32.9
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 92)	-22.0	-15.3	9.3	-23.5	-14.6	26.9	-3.6	7.3	-13.3
Employed persons (July 92)*	1.3	0.9	3.3	0.8	2.8	-1.2	0.9	0.6	1.6
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 92)	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 92)	5.5	3.4	3.2	5.3	5.1	3.2	5.7	5.3	4.4
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	14.6	2.4	4.0

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted



Key national indicators – consolidated to 11 August 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices (e)	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	64,762	0.6	0.8
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	4,944	5,565	-2.7	-21.3
— 1984-85 prices		"	3,898	4,386	-2.3	-18.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to June 92	6,727	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	June 92	7,602	7,876	-1.6	4.9
— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 92	15,253	15,785	1.6	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	June 92	53,209	49,663	20.6	20.6
Dwelling unit approvals	"	June 92	14,679	13,565	1.9	32.9
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,838	1,699	-0.2	-0.1
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	5,278.8	5,739.3	-0.1	-13.3
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,432.4	3,731.8	0.7	-10.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	32,884	35,130	1.8	0.6
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	22,814	24,284	1.1	-1.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 92	35,070	n.a.	n.a.	-2.0
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	July 92	7,741.6	7,749.2	0.8	1.6
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.7	11.0	-0.1	1.2
Participation rate †	"	"	63.2	63.5	0.3	0.9
Job vacancies	'000	May 92	24.3	24.8	-6.9	-3.4
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.09	1.10	-1.5	-1.7
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0		June qtr 92	107.3	n.a.	-0.3	1.2
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		May 92	122.4	n.a.	1.6	3.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0		May 92	112.3	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	2,779	3,469	12.8	37.7
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	May 92	587.30	n.a.	-0.3	4.7
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	June 92	6.40	n.a.	-0.10	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.90	n.a.	-0.20	-2.25
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	June 92	4,682	4,749	4.5	5.4
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,365	4,648	6.0	15.3
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	317	101	-36.9	-78.8
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-100	-175	-139.7	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,230	-1,238	-7.0	-18.2
Terms of trade (d) (e)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	100.5	2.8	0.7
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
SUS per \$A		June 92	0.7560	n.a.	n.a.	-0.6
Trade weighted index May 1970 = 100.0		"	56.2	n.a.	-1.6	-5.1
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Dec. 91	17.4	n.a.	0.3	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	May 92	175	214	-2.1	6.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 13 August 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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